

REMARKS

Claim 2, 3, 5-19 and 21-31 are pending in this application. Claims 7, 9-11, 16, 30 and 31 are withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 2, 5, 8, 9, 17, 19, 21 and 24-29 are amended and claims 1, 4 and 20 are canceled. The claims are amended for clarity and to incorporate the subject matter of the canceled claims. Thus, no new matter is added by this Amendment.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Koval in the November 23, 2005 telephone interview and November 29, 2005 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interviews is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. Election of Species Requirement

During the November 29, 2005 personal interview, the Examiner agreed that the elected species includes Figs. 1-5. The Examiner stated that claims 7, 9-11, 16, 30 and 31 are withdrawn.

Applicants assert that at least claims 2 and 27 are generic to all species. Thus, upon allowance of claims 2 and 27, the remaining claims should be rejoined with the application.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,836,298 (Song). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Contrary to the assertions made by the Office Action, Song fails to anticipate the subject matter of at least independent claims 2, 17, 19 and 24-29. Specifically, Song fails to teach or disclose an image loading section that is a one-dimensional line sensor as recited in each of the independent claims. Accordingly, claims 2, 17, 19 and 24-29, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are not anticipated by Song.

Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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